The problem of Bangalore is more immediate. Accordingly, the Government has already decided to set up the second electronic switching system factory at Bangalore to produce 500,000 lines a year of exchange equipment against the present production of about 1.5 lakh lines a year of electro-mechanical switching system

Indian Telephone Industries has already been given instructions to proceed to set up the production of one lakh lines a year of electronic rural automatic exchanges (RAX's) of 128 port capacity of D-DOT design They have also been asked to set up production of another one lakh lines a year of 512 port electronic RAX's of C-DOT design as soon as the same has been cleared for production

The question of adopting any other technology for the balance 3 lakh lines would arise only if at the stage of increasing the production capacity difficulties are experienced with the product based on this technology.

The problem at Rae Bareli is not so urgent However, this is also being looked into The Government has also set up a high powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Chairman SAIL to look into the problems of redeployment of staff likely to be rendered surplus due to phasing out of production of obsolete electro-mechanical exchange equipment, and other allied issues

As far as the alleged plans to import 2 lakh lines of exchange equipment per annum is concerned, the Department has no such plans and therefore there is no case for stopping the same.

Medical Research Project on the Bhopal Gas Victims

@1265. SHRI N E. BALARAM :
SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has decided to terminate the medical research project on the Bhopal gas victim prematurely, and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE) : (a) and (b) Two projects viz. (i) Thyroid status in M I C affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal a long term assessment and (ii) Clinical and forensic toxicological studies in M I C affected and unaffected are as of Bhopal tailed consideration by experts since no positive findings were found.

Detention of Air India Airbus at Lagos

1266 SHRI J P GOYAL :
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL :
SHRI SOHAN LAL DHUSIYA :
SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL :
SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY :
SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI SURESH KALMADI :
SHRI ANAND SHARMA :
PROF C. LAKSHMANNA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that an Air India Airbus was impounded at Lagos in Nigeria in August, 1987 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether said Air India plane has since been got released; and if so, on what conditions;

(c) the loss suffered by Air India as a result of impounding of the plane and whether Government of India have claimed any compensation from the Nigerian Government,

(d) whether the Government had since enquired into the circumstances in which the contraband heroin was seized from the plane,

(e) whether any person has been penalised for carrying contraband heroin in the plane and if so, the details thereof; and

@Previously Unstarred Question 933, transferred from the 16th November, 1987.